Pahanjip

Stories of Broken Silence

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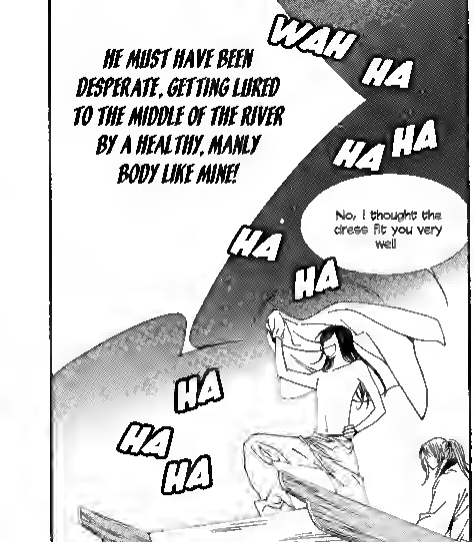
Chapter 11
Shackles

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
Did you hear? Recently a lot of young ladies have been disappearing
Ah, that
Yes, I have.
CLACK

I've heard that a demon appears and rapes them, then eats them from head to foot.
Ha! You can't believe everything you hear.
CRUNCH
If playful young ladies want to cross to the mainland to visit their men, how are we supposed to stop them?
Stop talking nonsense...
...and try this apple, OK?

Sounds good.
Apple...
stab
How does a spell-bound dagger taste, hmm?

You...!
slash

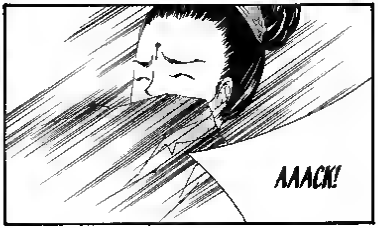

WAH HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HE MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE, GETTING LURED TO THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER BY A HEALTHY, MANLY BODY LIKE MINE!
No, I thought the dress fit you very well

*A strategy in which one dresses as someone or something else to fool the enemy

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S DIFFICULT. I SAID PLEASE, WITH A CHERRY ON TOP!
Oh, my, how daring of you
Wear this dress and lure him
Is it Go Yeok Gyo?
Just 'cause you ask doesn't meant I'll agree

LORD BAEK UHN!
How can you be so cruel? You haven't visited Jang Ahn in a long time!
Do you know how hard it is to gather enough money to satisfy you girls?

What? You can't say we suck all the money out the men who come here!
Ah, are you angry? But I really didn't have any.
You were so busy spending it at other brothels that you didn't have enough for us, hmm?
Umm, Lord Ho Yeon, if you give me your sword, I'll put it somewhere.
Ah, if you touch this, child...


AAACK!

Oh, my, she got sta- Ah?!
Shin Wol...
Don't overreact. You're already infamous in the brothels for not letting anyone get close to it

Can you prepare a meal for me first? I'm very hungry.
Is that so? We just got a good snow grouse. So Cheong!

So Chung, go and prepare a table for him. And be sure to use the snow grouse and the herring, OK?
Yes. Is Hyang feeling all right now?
Of course. After all that, she hasn't had even so much as a cold.
Ah Hyang. You should go and see Ah Hyang. I wonder how happy she'll be to see you again?
She thought of dying, when she was possessed, and had such pockmarks on her face
But you healed it completely for her

When will you visit again?

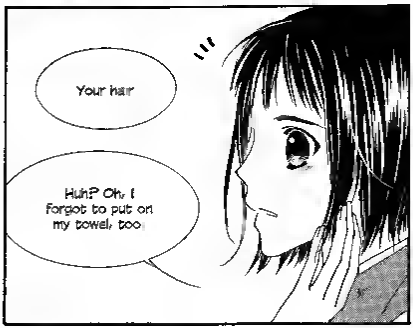
Umm, Lord Ho Yeon, I made you a little something to eat on the way
Can't you stay one more day?
I helped, too.
When will we see you again?
Ah, I really can't accept...
Why would I come back to listen to Ok Sun's raucous sounding bird?
It's so loud it hurts my ears
WHAT? YOU ALWAYS TELL ME MY BIP'A SOUNDS LIKE A SUFFOCATING CAT'S YOWLS.
Take care
Oh, Ah Hyang
Oh, don't cry, Hyang I'll come back to see you again

What's in that lunch box, anyway?
I wouldn't know. Would you like to open it?
Ok Sun told me not to open it first, or she'd kill me, so
PROFESSOR!

CAN YOU MAKE A BLIND MAN'S EYES OPEN?!
That's impossible
If it hasn't been done by a spirit, you should go see a doctor, instead

I... I see
Yes, if you think about it, it's quite obvious

I'm sorry. I stopped you on your way for nothing


Your hair
Huh? Oh, I forgot to put on my towel, too

I cut it and sold it

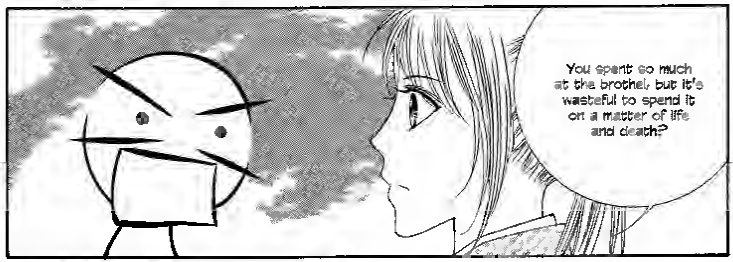
My father wasn't born blind

My mother passed away early, so he put me on his back and raised me with such difficulty.
But after he tripped and fell while in the mountains, he lost his sight
And now he's fallen ill, as well
You've served your father well, since you were very young.
You've gone through so much
It is my duty as his daughter
Oh my, I've talked too much I'm sorry.
I have to get going now, too

I'm sorry for making you late.
Please, take this with you
Your face doesn't look too good. You must take care of yourself, before tending to your father
You must think I'm a girl who doesn't know her place, but I thank you.
There's no room for shame or dignity.
That's how difficult her life might be.

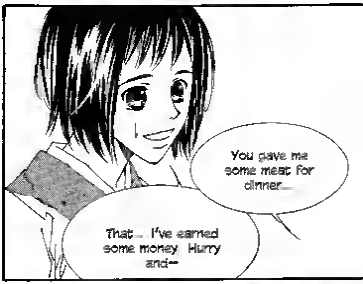
Ho Yeon.

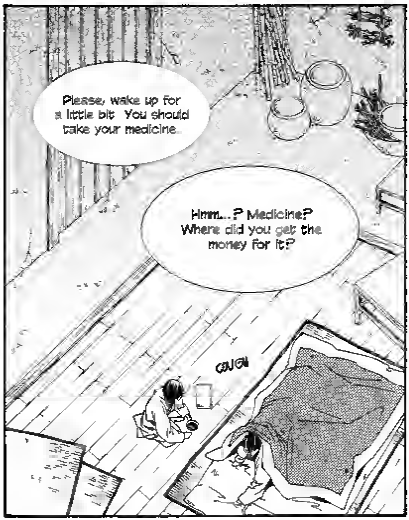
That money, wasn't it our travel money back to Nak Yang?
Yes, it was


You spent so much at the brothel, but it's wasteful to spend it on a matter of life and death?

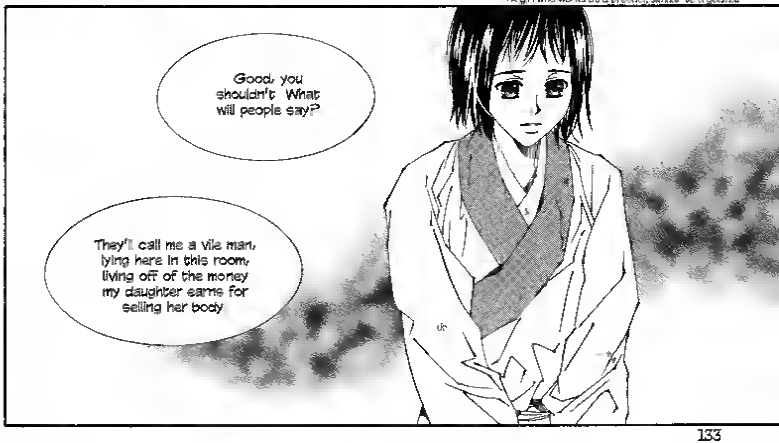
BUT NOW WE'RE IN A SITUATION OF LIFE AND DEATH!
Umm, you're kidding right?
We always are, so why does it matter?

WE'LL DIE FROM STARVATION! THAT'S THE WORST KIND OF DEATH, EVER!
Eyong-a, OK, tell me it was a lie.





*A girl who works at a brothel, similar to a geisha.


Good, you shouldn't. What will people say?
They'll call me a vile man, lying here in this room, living off of the money my daughter earns for selling her body

I should be dead and gone already
Don't say that, Father
Our little So Cheong is a good child
You are a very good daughter, Cheong
Today is very chilly This weather...
I'll get you more blankets, Father
An old man like me should have just a cotton shirt to wear in summer and winter...

cough
Ugh I should die already
cough
cough
I'm such a useless...
cough
My father has been cold lately
I'll give you my shirt from last winter You'll probably be able to reuse it
Cotton shirt?
Thank you, Ok Seon Unn Ni
Cheong, why don't you become a gi nyuh? Wouldn't it be better than what you do now?
If only it be as kind as you think

I've thought about that, but,
If a miracle occurred, I wouldn't be able to go home again
And there's no one around to give him his medicine and meals, so
I really...
I really want to do it, but...
The medicine is becoming useless now. Don't make anymore

Don't say that, Father. You'll be better soon
It's hopeless for me now.
COUGH
COUGH
This illness is cured only by eating well
COUGH
And by using good medicine
You're going through so much trouble
COUGH
I don't want to live like this
I'm a sick, blind, old man
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
You don't need to waste good food and medicine on me now.
Father, please. Don't say—
I'll do it for you. I will, so—

Ah, Cheong
Please don't cry.
cough
I've always told you that my old life isn't worth it
cough
cough
cough
Medicine is so expensive
I made him white rice for a few days, and now this, too
The money I received was quite a bit, but...
No, rice isn't the problem. It'll be winter soon.
I'm too weak to chop firewood, so I'll have to buy some...
Should I go look for ginseng in the mountains...?
Has anyone dropped any money around here...?

The innkeeper hasn't been too happy with my lack of enthusiasm lately
What if she fires me just before winter?
Ah, and the laundry work for Mrs Jin
I got frostbite last winter when I got a hole in my shoe
Yes, shoe What do I do?
I really hate winter

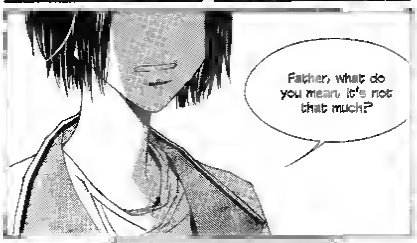
*Namu... is a buddhist prayer

So I said, "Go into the kitchen and drink as much as you'd like. I can't go out because I am blind and sick."
Oh, my. You cannot see. Namuamitabul*...

*Baek gwan is a unit of money

Baek gawn, Cheong It's not that much.

Baek gawn, Father, it's ten thousand Nyang
Dear, think about it, if it'll cure my blindness and sickness,


Father, what do you mean it's not that much?

then, yes? You won't have to work so hard, and ...
But, Father,

all I can earn in one month is
only about a hundred Nyang ...

Yes. Of course
Father...
cough
cough
cough
cough
No, never mind. I must have been crazy. Ten thousand Nyang...
Yes
What would I do with open eyes and health, if I am to die soon? I am...
I will prepare some food
You have to eat dinner, and your medicine...
No, thanks. What good is eating?
cough
I dreamt too big for myself. I am like this, Cheong. Hurry and get some rest.
cough
cough
cough

What use is a child...
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough

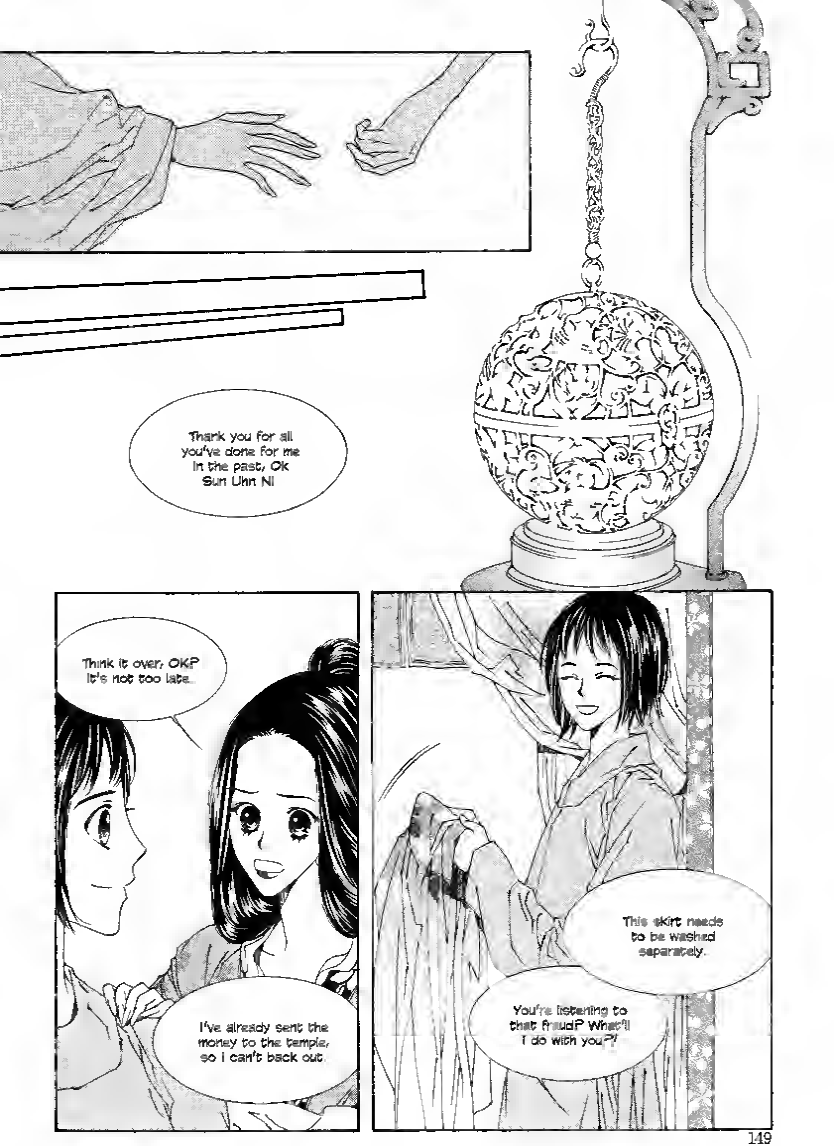
What?
You actually believe that, So Cheong?

What kind of fraud is that? And from a monk, too!
I know
Oh, please... You aren't thinking about it, are you?
What does it matter? I don't have the money
Even if I work all my life, I won't...
OH! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EARS!
SLAM
What's wrong with you...
Uhm Ni, that guest from Gwang Reung, you know?
Well, she told me she'd give me baek gwan's worth of money if I followed her back!

So I asked her, "What will you do with me?"
And she said, "I'll sacrifice you to the water god in the river!"
SO CHEONG!
Apparently, the waves will calm enough for them to cross the river, if they sacrifice a virgin
But then she says that I'm a gi nyuh, and ...
... do I know where she can trade a girl for money...
SO CHEONG!

They're saying such nonsense because there's been so much wind lately!
Whether it works or not, they'll give me money
Don't listen! What good is it if you're dead?!
Even if you die and donate the money,
That's no guarantee that your father will open his eyes!

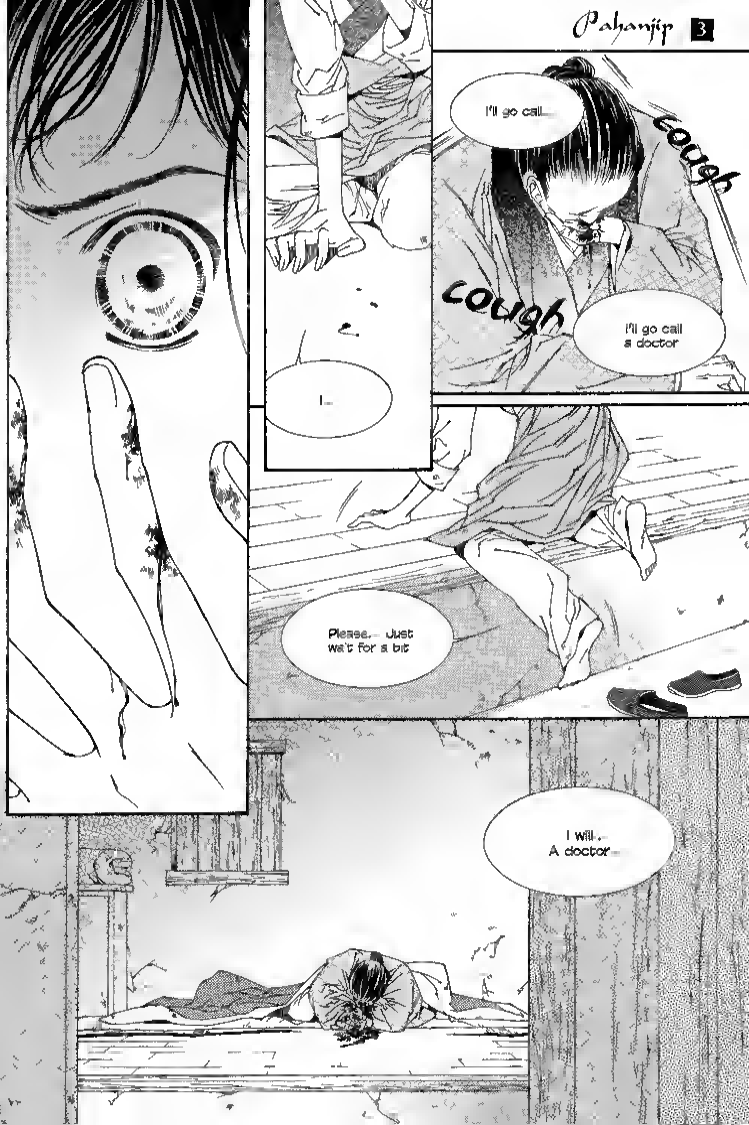
No, I'll do it.
Excuse me, Miss!
SO CHEONG!
Uhn Ni.
If either my father or I have to die,
it's my duty to die in his place
Uhn Ni.
Please, let me go.


Thank you for all you've done for me in the past, Ok Sun Unn Ni
Think it over, OKP It's not too late.
I've already sent the money to the temple, so I can't back out.
This skirt needs to be washed separately.
You're listening to that fraud? What'll I do with you?!

What if your father isn't cured? What will you do?
He will. He should be cured
Unn Ni, I'm all right
It's all right now.
Don't cry, Unn Ni.
Unn Ni, look at me.
I haven't been as peaceful in my entire life, as I am right now.
So Cheong...

I am putting you through so much, my dear Cheong
Don't talk like that, Father
What is an old man like me...
cough
When you open your eyes, you'll have to prepare your own food
cough
cough
cough
You won't be sick any more, so you won't have to take any more medicine
cough
cough
URK!
cough

Father?
Dear Cheong...
cough
FATHER!
cough
Cheong... What happened was... I...


I'll go call...
cough
cough
I'll go call a doctor
I...
Please... Just wait for a bit
I will... A doctor

CLOSE

!
Hee...
He...

It's over
It's all over
There is
no more.
There's no way
he can live after
that
He spilled so
much blood.
He can't. He
can't live now.
No, that
can't be.
He coughed
up so much
blood.

Have they made the bell already?
What do I say? What do I do to get that money back?
What if they still take me, even after giving back the money?
I'll run...
I'll disappear, quietly
I'll go somewhere no one knows about

I'm free.
I'm free now.
I have
freedom
I'm free now.
Shackles
End

LORD SOO KYUNG!
SURPRISED
I'LL RETURN THIS THING, AND GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN WITH LORD HO YEON!
Ah, but what will you do without Shin Wol...
HO YEON WILL COVER FOR ME WITH HIS MARTIAL ARTS!
Wait, Lord Baek Uhn. This manhwa isn't part of the martial arts genre
The artist didn't major in that

I don't know why he hates Shin Wol so much.
Even if he does, he doesn't have to go so far...
It is because he's...
...the son of Lord Gun Yang, who created Shin Wol.
but, to begin with, a ghost is an existence beyond a human's power.
You probably already know this.

That's why Lord Gun Yang made a sword that can't fight those spirits.
And that's the reason for the child's existence.
Then,
doesn't that person, robbed of his ki, die in the end?
Not necessarily
she'll be able to use that power to slay ghosts.
After going through many people, taking their ki*,

*Ki is life energy

You only have to throw away the sword
A living person's ki is bound to be recharged
But in return for Shin Wol's receiving the ki, power overcame her,
and many people died for it.
it took twenty years, but, thanks to those people's ki,
she was able to change from a spirit form into a solid form.

She's grown so much, she doesn't need human ki anymore.
I wonder what things she's gone through.
Although she doesn't say anything, so we won't know for sure.

When I saw her again,
she sobbed ever so sorrowfully
Lord Gun Yang passed away early, and that child came under my care, instead
But to be serving under Professor Won now...
Should I call it destiny?

She is like Chang Gwi*
*When a person dies from a tiger's bite, that spirit is "hired" by the tiger to lure his prey for him. This spirit is called Chang Gwi.
I beg of you.
Please pity her, and use her well